

Nashua

National Fish Hatchery

Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Judd Gregg (R)
Senator John E. Sununu (R)
Rep. Charles F. Bass (R-2nd)

Contact

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Purpose

The Nashua National Fish Hatchery supports Atlantic salmon and other fish restoration efforts in the Merrimack and Pawcatuck rivers and the New Hampshire coastal rivers by providing eggs for fry release programs and broodstock for Atlantic salmon fisheries. The salmon eggs are obtained from adult sea run salmon captured in the Merrimack River and held on the station and from domestic broodstock maintained at the hatchery. American shad eggs will be obtained from adult shad returning to the Merrimack River, and juveniles will be released to underutilized sections of the Merrimack River.

Public Use Notes

- Guided tours
- Lectures
- Multimedia presentations

Management Activities

The station produces 1.4 million salmon eggs annually from domestic salmon reared at the hatchery and from sea-run adults that have returned to the Merrimack River to spawn. This year the station also plans to culture 3 million shad eggs for American shad restoration.

Most of the salmon eggs are shipped to the North Attleboro National Fish Hatchery where they are incubated, hatched and released into the headwaters of rivers. The fry mature in a natural environment and migrate to the sea to complete their life cycle.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

1 800/344 WILD

<http://www.fws.gov>

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Highlights

Each year the Nashua National Fish Hatchery utilizes approximately 1,300 Atlantic salmon for egg production. Once spawned, the domestic fish are surplus to program needs and are released into the Merrimack River for the largest directed Atlantic salmon fishery in New England. The fish are marked, transported and released by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department.

The Nashua National Fish Hatchery hosts approximately 1,500 students and adults from the Adopt-A-Salmon Family watershed education program, area schools, and civic and scouting groups, and provides them with information about resource stewardship and anadromous fish restoration programs.



Spawning salmon

Greg Thompson/USFWS

The hatchery works in conjunction with the Central New England office's staff to provide spawning demonstrations and eggs for the Adopt-A-Salmon program.

Issues

Atlantic salmon populations are still at historically low levels nationwide. Currently, the largest threats to the fish populations in the Merrimack River include mercury and polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination, hydromodification, thermal pollution, and flow regulation resulting in insufficient in-stream flow.

